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Appl. No. 10/699,130
Amdt. Dated August 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2007

• • R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S • •

The Office Action of May 16, 2007 has been thoroughly carefully studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the claims, considered together with the following remarks are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 22 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the allowance of claims 9, 10 and 12-20 and protect applicants' invention which is currently enjoying commercial success.

Applicant preserves the right to seek patent protection for the subject matter of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 22 and 23 by filing and prosecuting a continuation application during the pendency of the present application.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,285,559 to Thompson.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,204,385 De Remer.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,155 to Moster.

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Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,366,664 to Varadan.

It is noted that all of claims that stand rejected over prior art have been canceled.

Accordingly, each of the outstanding prior art rejections are moot and no specific comments concerning the relevance of the prior art are deemed necessary in the present response.

All of the claims which remain pending have been indicated as being allowed by the Examiner.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and an early allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the outstanding Official Action and reconsideration is requested.


If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of

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time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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